Please amend the claims as follows:

In the claims:

1-13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition, comprising ~~the step of:~~ combining a therapeutic agent, a polymer having host and/or guest functionality, and a complexing agent to form the composition, wherein ~~said polymer and said agent form a particulate composite and~~ said polymer and said complexing agent form an inclusion complex.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14, wherein said therapeutic agent is first combined with said polymer ~~to form said particulate composite and said particulate composite~~ and the resulting mixture is then combined with said complexing agent such that said polymer and said complexing agent form an inclusion complex.

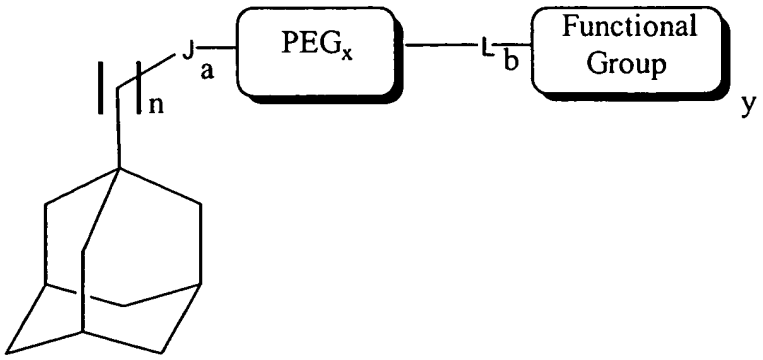
16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14, wherein said polymer is first combined with said complexing agent to form an~~d~~ inclusion complex and said inclusion complex is combined with said therapeutic agent ~~such that said polymer and said therapeutic agent form said particulate composite~~.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~composition~~ of claim 14 ~~5~~, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ an antibiotic, a steroid, a polynucleotide, small molecule pharmaceutical, a viruse, a plasmid, a peptide, a peptide fragment, a chelating agent, a biologically active macromolecule, and mixtures thereof.

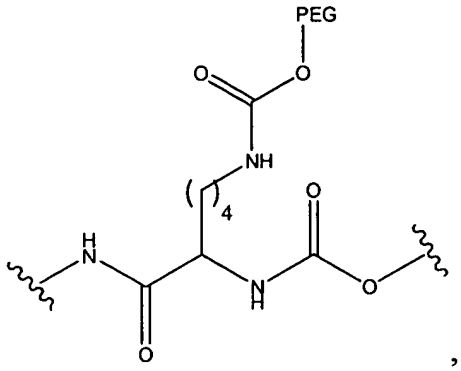
19. (Original) A method ~~composition~~ of claim 18, wherein said therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~composition~~ of claim 14 ~~17~~, wherein the complexing agent is an adamantane derivative of the formula:



wherein

J is –NH-, -C(=O)NH-$CH_2)_d$-, -NH-C(=O)-$(CH_2)_d$-, -CH_2SS-, -C(=O)O-$(CH_2)_e$-O-P(=O)(O-



$(CH_2)_e$-Ad)O-, , or

-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-;

Ad is adamantyl;

R^1 is –(CH_2)-CO_2H, an ester or salt thereof; or –$(CH_2)_a$-$CONH_2$;

PEG is –$O(CH_2CH_2O)_z$-, where z varies from 2 to 300;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-$(CH_2)_e$-(C=O)-CH_2-, -$S(=O)_2$-HC=CH_2-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

y is ~~0 or~~ 1; and

x is 0 or 1.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein complexing agent comprises at least one functional group and a host/guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with the polymer.

23. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a group selected from a ligand, a nuclear localization signal, an endosomal release peptide, an endosomal release polymer, or a membrane permeabilization agent.

24. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a moiety that increases the solubility of the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

25. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a moiety that stabilizes the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

26. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a therapeutic agent reversibly bound to the complexing agent.

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27. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the polymer comprises a host moiety that forms an inclusion complex with a guest moiety of the complexing agent.

28. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the polymer comprises a guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with a host moiety of the complexing agent.

29. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the complexing agent further comprises a spacer group positioned between the functional group and the host/guest moiety.

30. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the guest moiety is an adamantyl group and the host moiety is a cyclodextrin moiety.

31. (New) wherein the host/guest of the complexing agent is selected from adamantyl, diadamantyl, naphthyl, cholesterol, cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.